

**Seaham  
Urban District Council**

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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**FOR 1947**

OF THE

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**



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**Urban District Council**

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

# Seaham Urban District Council.

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Chairman, Councillor Mrs. T. TODD, J.P., M.B.E.

Chairman of Health Committee, Councillor W. P. SMITH, J.P

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## Members of the Council:

Councillor ARMSTRONG	Councillor McLAUCHLAN
„ *BARRATT	„ *OAKLEY
„ *BLACKWELL, J.H.	„ *OLIVER
„ *BLACKWELL, O.	„ *PIGG
„ CHARLTON	„ *ROBINSON
„ CONN	„ *SAVAGE
„ *CROMPTON	„ SCOTT, J. A.
„ *GASCOIGNE	„ SHAW
„ *GOODWIN	„ *SMITH
„ *KEELEY	„ *STRONG
„ LEE	„ *TODD
„ LOWERY	„ WEBSTER
„ MORELAND	„ *WEETMAN
„ MYERS	„ WHITWELL
„ McCUTCHEON	„ WILLIAMS
	„ WILSON

\* Members of Health Committee.

## Officials of Health Department:

Medical Officer of Health :

WM. JAMES PEDEN, L.R.C.P.I. & L.M., L.R.C.S.I. & L.M.,  
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector—BATESON TURNER, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,  
C.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector—Vacant.

Engineer and Surveyor—A. M. SMITH, M.I.M. & C.Y.E., A.I.A.A.

Clerk in Health Department—Miss J. DOWDING.

*To the Chairman and Members  
of the  
Seaham Urban District Council.*

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my annual report for 1947.

The country wide epidemic of Poliomyelitis was, in Seaham, restricted in numbers, as the table will show, and we are happy to state that the number of notifications did not reach double figures.

Of the other infectious diseases we have nothing special to report. Diphtheria, in common with the rest of the country, is still kept in check and effective immunisation has helped greatly in this respect.

There was much concern generally about the sale of Ice cream. We were especially careful in Seaham as regards cleanliness and other conditions and nothing untoward happened.

We still require a great number of houses, but the generosity of the Council in supplying accommodation for people suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis is greatly appreciated and will no doubt, in the future, reap its due reward.

The disinfection of premises after occurrence of infectious disease and the removal of patients to hospital by the Ambulance Service has proved entirely satisfactory.

Over one thousand ships entered the port during the year. Most of the traffic is in coal and we were able to deal with any health problems that arose. We would like to thank the Harbour Officials who at all times were willing to give us courteous co-operation.

There has been a small increase in the birth rate, a slight increase in the death rate and little change in the Infantile Mortality rate, these figures leave things much as they were.

May I thank the Health Committee, the Council and my colleagues on the staff, for the help and loyal support given to me during the year.

WM. JAMES PEDEN,  
Medical Officer of Health.



## GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures in brackets refer to previous year).

Area : 2,467 statute acres.

Number of inhabited houses (June, 1947), 6390, (6128)

Estimated number of separate tenancies (June, 1947), 7247  
(6985)

Rateable value, £104,491 (£103,253).

The sum represented by a Penny rate, £384 (£377)

## VITAL STATISTICS.

**Birth Rate**—LIVE BIRTHS :—

23.73 per 1000 estimated population (23.4)

STILL BIRTHS :—

Rate per 1,000 total births, 21.2 (21.7).

### Infantile Mortality.

Death rate of all infants under one year per 1000 live  
births, 48.4 (46.1)

Death rate of legitimate infants under one year per 1000  
live births, 45.0 (44.2)

Death rate of illegitimate infants under one year per  
1000 live births, 83.3 (29.4).

### Deaths.

Total rate per 1000 population, 11.8 (11.1).

Maternal mortality rate per 1000 live and still births, 1.6.  
(1.6)

	Male	Female	Total
Deaths from Cancer ...	...21 (21)	26 (24)	47 (45)
Deaths from Measles ...	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Deaths from Whooping Cough ..	1 (0)	1 (0)	2 (0)
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	1 (1)	3 (1)	4 (2)
Deaths from Diphtheria ...	1 (0)	0 (1)	1 (1)
Deaths from T.B. (Pul.) ...	7 (4)	11 (7)	18 (11)
Deaths from T.B. (Non-Pul.) ...	0 (2)	1 (0)	1 (2)
Deaths from Diseases of the Heart ...	...43 (43)	44 (47)	87 (90)
Deaths from Circulation (in- cluding Intracranial) ...	...17 (18)	22 (23)	39 (41)
Deaths from Pneumonia, Bron- chitis, etc. ...	...18 (15)	12 (15)	30 (30)

**TABLE I.**  
**Vital Statistics for 1947 and certain**  
**previous years.**

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
1900	42.0	21.1	174
1910	36.4	14.8	122
1920	35.2	16.3	124
1930	23.0	10.5	80
1937	17.2	10.3	82.9
1938	16.9	10.6	66.6
1939	16.3	10.6	78
1940	18.2	12.6	56.9
1941	17.6	12.2	60.4
1942	18.1	11.3	49.8
1943	19.86	13.5	59.3
1944	20.8	11.2	73.6
1945	21.5	10.0	56.3
1946	23.4	11.1	46.1
1947	23.73	11.8	48.4

**TABLE II.**  
**Vital Statistics for 1946 and 1947.**

	England and Wales		Smaller towns (Population 25,000-50,000)		County Rate		Seaham	
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947
Birth Rate ...	19.1	20.5	21.3	22.2	21.3	22.2	23.4	23.73
Death Rate ...	11.5	12.0	11.7	11.9	11.6	12.1	11.1	11.8
I. M. Rate ...	43	41	37	36	49	50	46.1	48.4



## **SUMMARY OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND TUBERCULOSIS.**

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The tables will show you the trend of events during the year.

TABLE III.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.**

CASES NOTIFIED AT THE FOLLOWING AGES:—

Disease	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over	Admitted to Hospital	Died	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	2	3	3	26	14	6	3	—	—	—	36	—	58
Diphtheria ..	—	1	1	2	—	8	7	3	6	4	1	—	33	—	33
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	—	—	2	—	7
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	9	—	2	—	11
Cerebro Spinal..	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5
Poliomyelitis ..	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	7	—	7
Measles .. ..	6	6	10	3	8	35	21	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	95
Whooping Cough	2	3	6	10	4	16	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45
Pneumonia ..	9	1	4	5	2	2	2	3	3	2	5	—	—	—	38

TABLE IV.

## Monthly Notifications of Infectious Diseases during 1947.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever ..	4	5	7	4	1	2	5	2	5	11	3	9	58
Diphtheria ..	3	4	3	2	—	1	5	2	4	2	6	1	33
Puerperal Sepsis ..	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	—	7
Erysipelas ..	1	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	1	2	11
Cerebro Spinal ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	5
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	1	—	—	7
Measles ..	8	11	42	16	7	4	2	1	1	—	—	3	95
Whooping Cough ..	4	9	22	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45
Pneumonia ..	5	6	8	5	2	3	1	—	3	1	2	2	38

**TABLE V.**  
**Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis Cases**  
**notified during past five years.**

(Figures in parenthesis indicate number of Deaths).

Disease	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Scarlet Fever ...	53 (0)	39 (0)	49 (0)	45 (0)	58 (0)
Diphtheria ...	101 (6)	40 (3)	38 (1)	28 (1)	33 (0)
Puerperal Sepsis ...	1 (1)	—	2 (0)	3 (0)	7 (0)
Erysipelas ...	15 (0)	4 (0)	8 (0)	6 (0)	11 (0)
Cerebro Spinal Fever	9 (4)	1 (1)	4 (2)	5 (1)	5 (0)
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	0 (0)	1 (0)	7 (0)
Measles ...	786 (1)	43 (0)	180 (0)	251 (0)	95 (0)
Whooping Cough ...	34 (1)	40 (0)	13 (0)	25 (0)	45 (0)
Pneumonia ...	75 (13)	53 (0)	37 (0)	59 (0)	38 (0)
T.B.—Pulmonary ...	36 (16)	31 (7)	28 (14)	38 (11)	37 (14)
T.B.—Non-Pulmonary	21 (4)	27 (0)	19 (5)	17 (0)	14 (0)

**TABLE VI.**  
**TUBERCULOSIS.**

Age Periods	NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ..	1	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
10-15 ..	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
15-20 ..	1	2	1	4	—	—	—	—
20-25 ..	5	8	—	—	1	3	—	—
25-35 ..	8	6	1	—	2	1	—	—
35-45 ..	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
45-55 ..	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55-65 ..	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ..	19	18	7	7	9	5	—	—



Herewith is given some explanation of previous figures.

(1) **Cerebro Spinal Fever.**—There has been no appreciable increase or decrease, the number of cases notified was five, which was the same as last year. The mortality rate was nil.

(2) **Diphtheria.**—The number of cases for the year was still small compared with previous years and adequate immunisation has helped in this respect.

(3) **Measles.**—95 cases were notified which shows a reduction on the previous year.

(4) **Poliomyelitis**—In common with the rest of the country there were a few cases in the area, but as you will see from the table the numbers were small and we have no deaths to report.

(5) **Scarlet Fever**—Gave no cause for any alarm

(6) **Typhoid.**—No cases notified.

(7) **Tuberculosis.**—The greatest number of cases of this disease were of the Pulmonary type between the ages of 20-35 years and we should like to stress how essential is an early diagnosis. We have again to report that no deaths occurred in children of school age and that mortality at any age from Tuberculosis of the non-pulmonary type was nil.

(8) **Whooping Cough.**—No deaths were reported in this disease.

## GENERAL SANITATION.

(1) **Abatement of Nuisances**—The Sanitary Inspector dealt with all complaints received, and the following nuisances and sanitary defects have been dealt with:—

Dwelling-houses	{	Foul conditions..	..	39
and	{	Structural defects	..	73
Schools	{	Overcrowding ..	..	0
Cowsheds ..		..	..	1
Bakehouses ..		..	..	1
Ashpits and Privies ..		..	..	8
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ..		..	..	8
Water Closets ..		..	..	56
Defective yard paving ..		..	..	4
House Drainage	{	Defective traps ..	..	1
	{	No disconnection from sewers	..	0
	{	Other faults ..	..	125
Smoke Nuisances ..		..	..	41
Other Nuisances ..		..	..	573

(2) **Disinfection and Disinfestation.**—At the Health Department Depot in Cornelia Terrace, disinfection of clothing and bedding by a Thresh type of disinfector. Formaldehyde liquid, vapour tablets, Cromessol and Killgerm liquid disinfectants are used for house disinfection.

(3) **Disinfestation and Eradication of Bed Bugs**—

Bedding is disinfected at the Depot with Formaldehyde Thresh Disinfector and, if necessary, other previously-named fumigants are used. When houses are disinfected the fumigants are:—(i) Powder D.D.T. (Kolium Co. and Killgerm Co.); (ii) Insecticide (Kolium British Fumigants and Killgerm); (iii) Fumigation (Fumex, Kolium and Killgerm Sulphur blocks) and Formaldehyde).

(4) **Drainage and Sewerage.** — The disposal of sewerage is carried out by the combined system and is discharged into the sea at the east side of the town. Additional lengths of sewers have been laid and in the near future additions will be made as is necessary to comply with the housing developments. The system is working satisfactory. As opportunity arises, the small number of houses which are not connected with the water carriage system, will be dealt with.

- (5) **Factories and Workshops.**—Complaints have been investigated and dealt with satisfactorily. Improvements have been suggested in certain cases, and as soon as materials and labour are available they will be carried out.
- (6) **Housing.**—Owing to the difficulty of obtaining materials and labour, it has been impossible to get a lot of the work done, but every effort is made to keep the properties in a sanitary condition.
- (7) **Meat and other Foods**—A total of 1041 visits were made to where food is stored.

The following is a list of foods condemned:—

Beef 916 lbs., Roast Beef 20 lbs., Pork 16 lbs., Mutton 28½ lbs., Sausage 4 lbs., Vienna Sausage 2 lbs., Sausage Meat 12 lbs., Pork Luncheon Meat 20 lbs., Chopped Ham 7 lbs., Minced Beef 9 lbs., Spam 3 lbs., Stewed Steak 47 tins, Casserole Steak 3 tins, Chicken 1 tin, Steak and Kidney Pudding 3 tins, Bacon 47 lbs. 2 ozs., Tongue 20 lbs., Butter 14 lbs., Lemon Butter 43½ lbs., Cheese 96 lbs. 10 ozs., Milk 2 pints, Eggs 221, Dried Egg 343 pkts., Milk 122 tins, Jam 7 lbs., Lemon Curd 65 lbs., Marmalade 4 lbs., Syrup 3 lbs., Honey 2 lbs., Pears 2 tins, Grape Fruit 3 tins, Plums 1 tin, Fruit Salad 18 tins, Tomatoes 112 tins, Carrots 1 tin, Beans 112 tins, Peas 104 tins, Soups 379 tins. Irish Stew 13 tins, M. & V. Rations 3 tins, Mixed Vegetables 1 tin, Spaghetti 1 tin, Fish 9 tins, Salmon 38 tins, Pilchards 40 tins, Silver Hake 8 tins, Herring 1 tin, Sardines 6 tins, Bananas 15, Vinegar 1 bottle, Sauces 19 bottles, Meat Paste 4 tins, Fish Paste 13 tins, 1 Fish Roll, Pickles 35 jars, Mustard 1 tin, Piccallili 25 jars, Beetroot 21 jars, Pudding Mixture 12 pkts., Oats 2 pkts., Flour 34 lbs., Bread 2363 lbs., Shredded Wheat 1 pkt., Cornflakes 1 pkt., Scotts Emulsion 1 bottle, Vironita 1 bottle, 3 Fruit Cocktails, Sugar 26 lbs., Peaches 18 tins, Baking Powder 5 pkts., Self-Raising Flour 1 lb., Bun Flour 4 pkts., Ginger Essence 1 bottle, Custard 2 pkts., Chocolate 68 bars, Macaroni 1 lb., Apricots 26 tins, Yeast 2 lbs., Potatoes 3 st., Prunes 32 lbs., Sunny Spread 1 carton, 133 Pies, Ice Cream Powder 1 cwt, Lemonade Powder 3 pkts., Weetabix 14 pkts., Cod Liver Roe Paste 1 tin, Symingtons Soups 3 pkts.



(8) **Milk.**—All Farms visited were found to be in a satisfactory condition with one exception. These defects have now been remedied.

(9) **Port Sanitary Authority.**—The port is mainly concerned with the export of coal and most of the shipping is coastwise, there being very little of a foreign nature. No cases of infectious disease were found during the year. No food enters the port.

The water supplied to the docks is supplied by the Sunderland & South Shields Water Company and since it is piped the risk of contamination is negligible.

The Customs Officials receive in the first place a Declaration of Health, which is then conveyed to the Health Department, likewise the Customs Officials receive messages from the ship and board the vessel and where necessary they are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector or the Medical Officer of Health.

The mooring station is situated on the south-east corner of the south dock.

The cleansing, the disinfection, the hospital accommodation, the ambulance and supervision of contacts are all arranged by the Health Department and are satisfactory

Bacteriological and pathological examinations can be made at the Central Laboratory, Government Buildings, Ponteland Road, Newcastle, and the local doctors and Customs Officials have been informed of the times of the Venereal Disease treatment, which is carried out by the Sunderland Royal Infirmary.

(10) **Rat Disinfestation.**—All complaints have been dealt with. A full time Operator is employed and the Ministry of Food methods are used for disinfestation.

(11) **Refuse and Salvage.**—The total amount of refuse collected for the year ending 31st March, 1948, was 19,401 tons. Controlled tipping is in operation, and the tip is situated in the south-eastern part of the area and Dawdon Dene.

The collection of salvage is carried out by the Surveyor's Department, the approximate total figures being:

		T.	C.	Q.
Paper	.. ...	103	13	0
Scrap Metal	...	89	8	3
Non-ferrous Metals		15	1	14
Textiles	... ...	7	7	1
Bones	... ...	8	14	3
Kitchen Waste	...	51	8	0
Bottles and Jars	...	31	14	2



# Amount of Shipping Entering the Port during the Year.

	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Transport Surveyors	Number of Vessels reported as having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector				
Foreign { Steamers * Motor Sailing Fishing	1	536	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
Total Foreign ...	1	536	1	1	"	"	"	"
Coastwise { Steamers * Motor Sailing... Fishing	915	543,822	11	112	"	"	"	1
	111	24,775	—	—	"	"	"	"
	—	—	—	—	"	"	"	"
	Nil	Nil	—	—	"	"	"	"
Total Coastwise ...	1026	568,597	11	112	"	"	"	1
Total Foreign and Coastwise	1027	569,133	12	113	"	"	"	1

\* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

# Factories Act, 1937

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	1	35	63	—	—	1
	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies						
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 .. .. .	2	—	—	—	—	2
	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) Others.. .. .	3	—	—	—	—	3
	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises .. .. .	4	—	—	—	—	4
	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
TOTAL ..	—	35	63	—	—	—

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9	1	1	—	1	—	9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	10	1	1	—	1	—	10
(a) Insufficient ...	11	1	1	—	1	—	11
(b) Unsuitable or defective...	12	1	1	—	—	—	12
(c) Not separate for sexes...	13	—	—	—	—	—	13
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	60	4	4	—	3	—	60
TOTAL...	...	4	4	—	3	—	60







